



TeachersFirst **READING TREKS**

My Brothers' Flying Machine, Wilbur, Orville and Me

[TeachersFirst Reading Treks Link](#)

Synopsis of Book

This picture book written by Jane Yolen and illustrated by Jim Burke highlights through the story and images the contributions of Katherine Wright to the work and inventions of her brothers, Wilbur and Orville Wright. Katherine's life is often a forgotten part of history shared here as narrative nonfiction and informational text.

Using a TeachersFirst Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks are a way of creating a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or text. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this Instructional Guide and the accompanying Google Map as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Grade Level & Content Areas

Grades K-4 English Language Arts, reading, literature, social studies, science, history, and geography.
RL=4 Lexile = 770-980, ATOS Reading Level: 4.5

Common Core State Standards for K-4

Reading

- **Informational Text** (key ideas and details and craft and structure)
- **Literature** (key ideas and details and craft and structure)
- **Range, Quality & Text Complexity**

Writing

- **Text Types and purposes**
- **Research** (to build and present knowledge)

Next Generation Science Standards

Core Idea

- **K-2 - ETS1-1 Engineering Design**

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

Key Themes

- **Time Continuity and Change**
- **Individual Development, and Identity**
- **Science, Technology, and Society**

ISTE: Student Standards

(1) Empowered Learner: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.

(3) Knowledge Constructor: Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts, and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.

(6) Creative Communicator: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.

Using the Reading Trek in Class

This title has a strong place and time, as it shares highlights of the Wright family and tells about the challenges and triumphs of Katherine's life.

1. Using the Reading Trek, explore the time period of the 1900s. In small groups, have students work through the layers about Dayton and the Wright's lives.
2. As they visit the websites, students make comparisons of life at the turn of the century and now using a chart with categories of their choosing, e.g. clothing, architecture, transportation.
 - a. Ask students to discuss or write a response about what life was like for Katherine and her brothers in the early 1900s in Dayton.
3. In the Wright Family layer, have students explore the following:
 - a. Home life in the 1900s and the relationship of Katherine to her brothers and family.
 - b. The Wright brothers as inventors and businessmen.
4. In Katherine's layer.
 - a. Research and discuss her life at college and as a teacher and young wife.

5. In the First Flight Layer
 - a. Explore the concepts of flights and challenges the Wright brothers' faced.
6. Explore author and book information;
 - a. Jane Yolen
 - b. Artist Jim Burke
 - c. Literature Study Resources

Additional Activities

1. Introduce the book to the whole class using an interactive whiteboard.
2. As you read the book, use the Reading Trek links to expand on the text of each page.
3. Have students research more about the book using the Reading Trek as a web quest.
4. Suggested material to explore would be information about the author, place names in the story, characters, and events.
5. Use the Reading Trek for stimulating discussion, asking questions, or for writing prompts.
6. As a science activity, explore the principles of flight using the classroom resources below and links on the Reading Trek.
7. Students can create their own Reading Treks about the book, or about historical events and people individually or in groups depending on their age. Use the Reading Treks as resources for the whole class.

Helpful Resources

- [TeachersFirst, CurriConnects Book List - Flight and Things that Fly](#)
- [TeachersFirst's Resources: Special Topics Collection Man's Soars into Flight](#)
- [National Park Service Classroom Guide The Wright Brothers](#)
- [NASA Reliving the Wright Brothers](#)
- [Macmillan McGraw Hill Teacher's Guide to My Brothers' Flying Machine and Reading Guide](#)
- [My Brothers' Flying Machine Literature Study](#)
- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Mapping Across Content Areas with Google Maps Webinar Archive](#)
- [Ok2Ask: Seeing is Believing: Make Literature Come Alive with Google Lit Trips](#)